

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05393 052329Z

60

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1800

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5393

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN RQ HU

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH HUNGARIAN PERM REP ON PUERTO RICO
STATEMENT

REF: USUN 4998, BUDAPEST 3776

AMBASSADOR BENNETT MET WITH HUNGARIAN PERM REP SZARKA AT
UN DECEMBER 5 TO TAKE UP MATTER OF STATEMENT MADE NOVEMBER
20 IN UNGA PLENARY BY HUNGARIAN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGARDING PUERTO RICO. BENNETT TOLD SZARKA
THAT WE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY CONTENT OF HUNGARIAN STATEMENT
ON PUERTO RICO AND HE WANTED TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND TELL
SZARKA THAT WE HAD FOUND HUNGARIAN STATEMENT OFFENSIVE.
IN VIEW OF EARLIER UN ACTIONS RECOGNIZING THAT PUERTO RICO
HAD ACHIEVED SELF DETERMINATION AND REMOVING PUERTO RICO
FROM UN'S LIST OF NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES, US
REGARDED HUNGARIAN STATEMENT AS INTEFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. WE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HUNGARY HAD RAISED AN
ISSUE WHICH WAS CERTAINLY NOT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEM BUT
ON THE OTHER HAND WAS A MATTER OF FIRST RATE IMPORTANCE
TO US. SUCH STATEMENTS BY HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL WERE HARDLY
IN LINE WITH WHAT USUN UNDERSTOOD WAS PRESENT POLICY OF
BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOWARD IMPROVING BILATERAL
RELATIONS. AT THIS POINT, SZARKA INTERRUPTED WITH SOME
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PAGE 02 USUN N 05393 052329Z

EAGERNESS TO SAY, "YES, WE MUST CONTINUE WORKING FOR BETTER

RELATIONS." BENNETT REITERATED THE KIND OF STATEMENT MADE BY HUNGARIAN REP IN PLENARY DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO BETTERMENT, AND ASKED THAT SZARKA REPORT HIS REPRESENTATIONS TO BUDAPEST. SZARKA MADE NO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT NOR DID HE ATTEMPT TO ARGUE ANY OF POINTS MADE. HE SAID READILY THAT HE WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. SZARKA, OF LARGE BULK, IS AN AGREEABLE MAN AND CONVERSATION WAS OPEN AND DIRECT.
BENNETT

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